

opposed vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 3 ayes, 16 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

SENATOR LAMB: The committee amendments are not adopted. Senator Hall, to address the bill.

SENATOR HALL: Mr. President and members, LB 716 is my priority bill from last year and has spent three-quarters of this session at the head of the General File list. I have not addressed the issue yet this year because I introduced LB 1098 which is a bill that I brought back to the body after an ad hoc committee met over the summer that dealt with the issue of the petition laws. LB 716 was a comprehensive look at the petition laws and how they affected the petition referendum process in the State of Nebraska. It opened up all the options. It looked at the issue of paying circulators. It looked at the issue of using driver's license records for determining whether or not someone could sign a petition, based on the issue of electors being those eligible in the Constitution of this state. We have just passed, two days ago, LR 248CA, which would change the provision for electors in our Constitution to registered voters. Forty-three of us supported that and three people opposed it. I think they opposed the amendment that dealt with the issue of the 17-year-olds able to vote in the primary, not the issue of registered voters being those who could participate in the petition referendum process. What I did over the summer was, through the auspices of the League of Women Voters, is sit down with a group of people, Senator Rupp's office, who was then Chairman of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee; the League of Women Voters; Allen Beermann's office, the Secretary of State; Ed Jaksha, who is vitally interested in the petition process; Dr. Dick Shugrue from the Creighton Law School; Steve Wiitala, who was the then Douglas County Election Commissioner, and myself and George Kilpatrick, Committee Counsel for me. But the group discussed the issues that were raised by LB 716 and we looked at those things that needed to be addressed, those areas in the petition laws that needed to be corrected and that all sides agreed on were a problem that hampered the petition process and that needed some clarification. That was introduced through the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee as LB 1098 this year. There was a public hearing on the bill. There were committee amendments that were discussed. LB 1098 was not advanced to the